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April 6, 2004

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/667,521
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING FLUID LOSS
DURING A SURGICAL PROCEDURE
Our Reference No.: 23660-00656

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-referenced application are the following documents:

- (1) Transmittal Letter;
- (2) Information Disclosure Statement (1 sheet);
- (3) PTO/SB/08A (1 sheet); and
- (4) 1 U.S. Patent reference.

Please date-stamp the enclosed copy of this letter, acknowledging receipt of the above-identified documents, and return it to us.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN N. COULBY, Reg. No. 43,565

Enclosures

JNC/jrd

cc: Dr. Howard Tanner
Dr. Hugh Trout, III



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PTO/SB/21 (02-04)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

15

Application Number

10/667,521

Filing Date

September 23, 2003

First Named Inventor

HUGH H. TROUT, III, M.D.

Art Unit

3762

Examiner Name

Unassigned

Attorney Docket Number

23660-00656

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | 1 U.S. Patent Reference |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | Remarks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name JOHN N. COULBY, Reg. No. 43,565

Signature

Date

April 6, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name

Signature

Date

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of: Hugh H. TROUT, et al. **Art Unit:** 3762
Application Serial No.: 10/667,521 **Examiner:** Unassigned
Filed: September 23, 2003
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING FLUID LOSS
DURING A SURGICAL PROCEDURE
Attorney Docket #: 23660-00656

Information Disclosure Statement

MAIL STOP DD
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

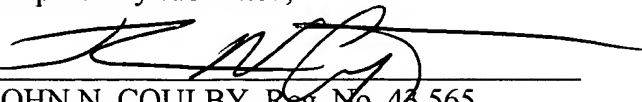
In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, and 1.97-1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

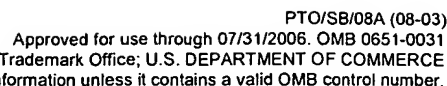
The undersigned certifies that, to the best of his knowledge, each item of the reference contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a counterpart international application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). Accordingly, no fee is required.

If any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to arrange payment.

Date: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN N. COULBY, Reg. No. 43,565
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/667,521
Filing Date	September 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Hugh H. TROUT, III
Art Unit	3762
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	23660-00656

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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